Decline in Postal Traffic Volume

892. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Universal Postal Union (UPU) of which India is a member has predicated the steep decline in postal traffic volume in developing countries due to rapid advances in communications technology field;

(b) what are the major factors identified by the UPU that adversely affected the growth in the postal traffic volume; and

(c) whether there has been improvements in mail transit/sorting and delivery of mails both in urban and rural centres commensurate with the recent increase in postal tariffs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) while there is no threat of steep decline, Technology substitution viz. growth of telephones, fax, electronic mail, interactive communication and other forms of electronic commerce in the communication market and growing competition from other service providers e.g. private couriers have been identified by the UPU as factors that adversely affect the growth of postal traffic.

(c) Improvement in transmission, sorting and delivery of mail is a continuous process and is closely monitored at different levels. Necessary steps are taken from time to time to ensure timely delivery of mail in rural and urban areas irrespective of the tariff charged.

Village Public Telephones

893. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Village Public Telephones set up during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the target set for the year 2002;

(c) the number of Village Public Telephones installed in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise and district-wise; and

(d) what kind of assistance Government are extending to private people who have come forward to install VPTs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Total number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) set up during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise is given in the Statement-I. (*See* below)

(b) The target set for new VPTs for the year 2002 are as below:

1.	For BSNL	69,440 nos.
2.	For private operators	59,758 nos.

(c) The number of VPTs installed in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise and district-wise is given in Statement-II. (See below)

(d) The Government is facilitating the Private Basic service providers to use any technology for providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs). Further, they are free to use resources and infrastructure of any other licensed service provider in their service area on mutually agreed terms & conditions between them.

Statement-I

VPTs installed during the last three years by BSNL and Private Basic Service Operators (PBSO)

Sl. No.	Name of State	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002		Total
		BSNL	PBSO	BSNL	PBSO	BSNL	PBSO	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andaman/Nicobar	55		8	5	0	102	170
2.	Andhra Pradesh	15		4		18		37
3.	Assam	826		336		2501		3663
4.	Bihar	4602		2276		15612		22490
5.	Jharkhand	*		0		9980		9980

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6.	Gujarat			0		0	2	2
7.	Haryana			4		0		4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2577		4002		4507		11086
9.	J&K	448		229		50		727
10.	Karnataka	2455		1255		4		3714
11.	Kerala	0		0		0		0
12.	MP	3546	12	1527	336	312		5733
13.	Chhattisgarh	**		0		3677		3677
14.	Maharashtra	165		0		0	160	325
15.	North East-I	303		236		368		907
16.	North East-II	0		73		147		220
17.	Orissa	2102		2037		10392		14531
18.	Punjab	39		564		0	20	623
19.	Rajasthan	548		98	169	33	40	888
20.	Tamil Nadu	11		53		1		65
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	8303		14643		8179		31125
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	4440		3167		2402		10009
23.	Uttaranchal	***		0		2162		2162
24.	West Bengal	3530		3805		10357		17692
25.	Delhi	0		0		0		0
26.	Calcutta	0		0		53		53
	TOTAL:	33965	12	34317	510	70755	324	139883

* Included in Bihar as circle was not created.

** Included in Madhya Pradesh as circle was not created.

*** Included in UP(W) circle for 99-00 as earlier it was part of UP(W) circle.

PBSO-Private Basic Services Operator

BSNL-Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

Statement-II

VPTs installed in Andhra Pradesh during last five years year-wise and district-wise.

Sl. No.	District	1997-98	1997-98	1998-99	1998-99	1999-00	1999-00	00-01	00-01	01-0201-02	Total
		PBSO	BSNL	PBSO	BSNL	PBSO	BSNL	PBSO	BSNL	PBSO	BSNL*
1.	Adilabad	0	236	0	21	0		0	3	53	313
2.	Ananthapur	0	62	0	24	0		0	0	17	103
3.	Chittoor	0	84	0	24	0	15	1	18	146	288
4.	Cuddapah	0	119	0	45	0		0		8	172
5.	East Godavari	0	334	0	0	0		10	1	81	126
6.	Karimnagar	0	78	0	34	0		0		3	115
7.	Khammam	0	155	0	48	0		0		20	223
8.	Krishna	0	0	0	0	0		0		3	3
9.	Kurnool	0	25	0	6	0		0		3	34
10.	Mahboobnagar	0	72	0	63	0		0		14	149
11.	Medak	0	52	0	11	0		0		6	69
12.	Nalgonda	0	83	0	12	0		0		19	114
13.	Nellore	0	95	0	15	0		0		37	147
14.	Nizamabad	0	45	0	17	0		0		15	77
15.	Prakasam	0	54	0	40	0		0		24	118
16.	Ranga Reddy	0	19	0	7	0		0		0	26
17.	Srikakulam	0	150	0	44	0		0		195	389
18.	Visakhapatnam	0	92	0	56	0		0		294	442
19.	Vizianagaram	0	97	0	59	0		0		32	188
20.	Warangal	0	0	0	0	0		0		52	52
21.	West Godavari	0	14	0	0	0		0		1	15
	TOTAL	0	1566	0	526	0	15	11	22	1023	3163

BSNL has completed its quota of provision of VPTs.

PBSO-Private Basic Service Operator

BSNL-Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited